

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1568**

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**Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Salas (Chair), Cook (Vice Chair), Huber, Lieu, V. Manuel Perez, Saldana, and Yamada)**

March 16, 2009

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An act to ~~add Section 722 to the Military and Veterans Code~~ amend *Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions Code*, relating to veterans.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1568, as amended, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Veterans: benefits.

*Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which basic health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons. Existing law requires the department, by July 1, 2009, to establish a 2-year pilot program to utilize the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veteran health care benefits, and to select 3 consenting counties that have in operation a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) medical center to participate in the pilot program.*

*This bill would delete references to the 2-year pilot program and, instead, require the department, by July 1, 2010, to implement a program to utilize the federal PARIS to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal system and assist them in obtaining federal veteran health care benefits. The bill*

*would eliminate the requirement that the department select 3 consenting counties that have USDVA medical centers to participate in the program.*

~~Existing law requires every state and local public agency to render the service or provide the benefits and assistance it provides to the public to every veteran on the same basis as to any other eligible person.~~

~~Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which basic health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons. Existing law permits a county board of supervisors to appoint a county veterans services officer.~~

~~This bill would declare legislative intent to implement the Public Assistance and Reporting Information System (PARIS) interstate-federal match to allow the department to identify veterans enrolled in the Medi-Cal program who could receive medical benefits through the federal Veterans Health Administration that would either replace or supplement Medi-Cal benefits. The bill would require the department to work in conjunction with designated state and local entities in utilizing the PARIS to identify veterans enrolled in the Medi-Cal program, and to assist them in obtaining federal veterans' health care benefits. The bill also would require the department to work in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan for the dissemination of PARIS match results, and to establish outreach standards and performance criteria for county veteran services offices that receive information regarding veterans identified by the PARIS.~~

~~Because the bill would impose increased duties upon county veterans services officers, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.~~

~~Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.~~

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     *SECTION 1. Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions*  
2     *Code is amended to read:*

3     14124.11. (a) The department shall establish a ~~two-year pilot~~  
4     program to utilize the federal Public Assistance Reporting  
5     Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their  
6     dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program  
7     and assist them in obtaining federal veteran health care benefits.

8     ~~(b) The department shall select three consenting counties that~~  
9     ~~have in operation a United States Department of Veterans Affairs~~  
10    ~~(USDVA) medical center to participate in the pilot program.~~

11    ~~(c)~~

12    ~~(b)~~ Under the ~~pilot~~ program, the department shall exchange  
13    information with PARIS and identify veterans and their dependents  
14    or survivors who are receiving Medi-Cal benefits in the ~~pilot~~  
15    program counties.

16    ~~(d)~~

17    ~~(c)~~ The department shall refer identified Medi-Cal beneficiaries  
18    who are receiving high-cost services, including long-term care, to  
19    county veteran service officers (CVSOs) to obtain information  
20    regarding, and assistance in obtaining, USDVA benefits.

21    ~~(e)~~

22    ~~(d)~~ Prior to commencement of the ~~pilot~~ program, the department  
23    shall do all of the following:

24    (1) Enter into an agreement with the California Department of  
25    Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to perform CVSO outreach services in  
26    connection with the ~~pilot~~ program. The CDVA agreement shall  
27    contain performance standards that would allow the department  
28    to measure the effectiveness of the ~~pilot~~ program.

29    (2) Enter into any agreements that are required by the federal  
30    government to utilize the PARIS system.

31    (3) Perform any information technology activities that are  
32    necessary to utilize the PARIS system.

33    ~~(f)~~

34    ~~(e)~~ The department shall monitor the ~~two-year pilot~~ program,  
35    evaluate the outcomes and savings, and provide the fiscal  
36    committees of the Legislature with a report on the findings and  
37    recommendations. ~~If the department determines that the pilot~~

1 program is cost effective, it may implement the program statewide  
2 at any time and continue operation of PARIS indefinitely.

3 ~~(g)~~

4 (f) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section  
5 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,  
6 the department may implement, interpret, or make specific, this  
7 section by means of written directives without taking further  
8 regulatory action.

9 ~~(h)~~

10 (g) The department shall implement the pilot program by July  
11 1, 2009 2010.

12 ~~(i)~~

13 (h) In order to achieve maximum cost savings the Legislature  
14 hereby determines that an expedited contract process for contracts  
15 under this section is necessary. Therefore, contracts under this  
16 section shall be exempt from the Public Contract Code and from  
17 Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 11250) of Part 1 of Division  
18 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

19 SECTION 1. Section 722 is added to the Military and Veterans  
20 Code, to read:

21 ~~722. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this~~  
22 ~~section to implement the Public Assistance and Reporting~~  
23 ~~Information System (PARIS) interstate-federal match to allow the~~  
24 ~~State Department of Health Care Services to identify veterans~~  
25 ~~enrolled in the Medi-Cal program who could receive medical~~  
26 ~~benefits through the federal Veterans Health Administration that~~  
27 ~~would either replace or supplement benefits available from the~~  
28 ~~Medi-Cal program.~~

29 ~~(b) The State Department of Health Care Services shall work~~  
30 ~~in conjunction with the State Department of Social Services, the~~  
31 ~~Department of Veterans Affairs, county welfare departments, and~~  
32 ~~other state agencies and departments, as needed, in utilizing the~~  
33 ~~federal PARIS to identify veterans enrolled in the Medi-Cal~~  
34 ~~program, and to assist them in obtaining federal veterans' health~~  
35 ~~care benefits.~~

36 ~~(c) The State Department of Health Care Services shall work~~  
37 ~~in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs to do both~~  
38 ~~of the following:~~

39 ~~(1) Develop a plan for the dissemination of PARIS match results~~  
40 ~~to county veteran services offices (CVSOs).~~

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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